

Title: Need to set up a new airport between Guntur and Chilakalurpet, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): Sir, if people from Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam and West Godavari want to go to Hyderabad by flight, it takes 2 hours for them to reach Gannavaram Airport in Vijayawada. It takes another 1 hour to reach Hyderabad. Overall, it takes 3 hours for a passenger to travel from Guntur to Hyderabad. On the other hand, if a person wanted to go to Hyderabad by road from Guntur, it takes hardly 4 hours. This loss of time has put the air passengers to a lot of inconvenience.

Moreover, 60 to 70 per cent of the passengers who use air travel from Vijayawada come from Guntur, which is the prominent business, commercial and export centre for tobacco, cotton and chilies. Buyers not only come from all parts of the country but also from Europe, United States of America and other countries. The turnover of this business and export centre runs into thousands of crores of rupees. Guntur is not just considered as a domestic market but also an international business centre.

Under the circumstances, I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to set up a new airport between Guntur and Chilakalurpet for the convenience of the passengers from Guntur and Prakasam districts taking into consideration the business potential of the area. In fact, the land for airport is readily available which the Government can take over to start construction of the new airport on a war footing.